



State Library of Massachusetts - Special Collections Department

Ms. Coll. 125

Gubernatorial Speech Collection, 1925-1931: Guide

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator: Fuller, Alvan T., (Alvan Tufts), 1878-1958 and Allen, Frank G., (Frank Gilman), 1874-1950.

Call Number: Ms. Coll. 125

Extent: 2 boxes (1.5 linear feet)

Preferred Citation Style: *Folder Title, Box Number #.* Gubernatorial Speech Collection. State Library of Massachusetts Special Collections.

About This Finding Aid: Description based on DACS.

Processed by: Finding aid prepared by Olympia Sosangelis, March, 2004; updated by Abigail Cramer, September, 2012.

Abstract: This collection consists of speeches given by Massachusetts Governors Alvan T. Fuller and Frank G. Allen.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The speeches of Governor Alvan T. Fuller and Governor Frank G. Allen consist of speeches and public addresses given at churches, schools, hospitals, town celebrations, dinners, reelection rallies, and on the radio. The speeches are gracious and polite and eschew controversial issues. In fact, there is no mention of the Sacco and Vanzetti case in Governor Fuller's speeches. Instead, the speeches touch on the promises or accomplishments of the administration; the tone is usually patriotic, positive, and hopeful. The speeches frequently make historical references (i.e.

World War I, the history of New England, the Puritans) that express the ideals of liberty, bravery and the greatness of the Commonwealth and the nation.

The first speech given by Governor Alvan T. Fuller was on January 9, 1925, and the last was given on December 27, 1928 (Fuller was Governor of Massachusetts from January 7, 1925 to January 1, 1929). The first speech given by Governor Frank G. Allen was on January 4, 1929, and the last was given on January 2, 1931 (Allen was Governor of Massachusetts from January 3, 1929 to January 8, 1931).

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Alvan T. Fuller

Alvan Tufts Fuller was born in Boston, Massachusetts, February 27, 1878, the son of Alvan Bond and Flora A. (Tufts) Fuller. He married Viola Davenport on July 12, 1910, and they had four children. He began a bicycle business in 1896 but later realized the potential of the automobile. He was the first to import foreign cars to Boston, was the founder and owner of the Packard Motor Co. of Boston, and he later became chairman of the board of the Cadillac-Oldsmobile Co. of Boston.

Fuller served as a Republican in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1915 to 1917, and he was a member of the United States House of Representative from 1917 to 1921. He served as Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts from 1921 to 1925, and he became Governor of Massachusetts after defeating the Democratic candidate, Boston Mayor James M. Curley, and began his term on January 7, 1925. He was subsequently reelected, and his terms in office spanned the years 1925 to 1929. Fuller was faced with severe state budget deficits, which he overcame by instituting new economies including a "pay as you go" system. During his second term, he became involved in the highly controversial Sacco and Vanzetti trial. Fuller appointed an advisory committee headed by the president of Harvard to determine the fairness of the trial. The panel found that the trial had been fair and that the men were guilty. Governor Fuller refused to intervene and grant clemency, and Sacco and Vanzetti were executed August 23, 1927. In his later years, Alvan T. Fuller was a noted philanthropist. He had a home in Boston and a large estate in Little Boar's Head, New Hampshire. He died of a heart attack at age 80, in Boston, on April 30, 1958.

Frank G. Allen

Frank Gilman Allen was born in Lynn Massachusetts, October 6, 1874, the son of Frank and Abbie (Gilman) Allen. He married Clara Winslow on November 11, 1927, and they had one child. After Clara's death, he married Eleanor Hamilton Wilson, and they had two children. He was

president of Winslow Brothers and Smith Company, a wool and leather firm, from 1912 to 1929. He served on the Norwood Board of Assessors from 1910 to 1915, and he was chairman of the Board of Selectmen for Norwood from 1915 to 1922. As a Republican, he served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1918 to 1919, and in the State Senate from 1920 to 1924. He was Lieutenant Governor from 1925 to 1929, serving under Governor Alvan T. Fuller.

He defeated the Democratic candidate, Charles H. Cole, in the gubernatorial race of 1928, and his term began on January 3, 1929. He served as Governor for one term, from 1929 to 1931. As Governor, he signed legislation that revised and unified the child welfare laws, and established and expanded the facilities for the care of the sick and destitute. He also appointed two women judges in the state. In 1930, he was defeated in his bid for reelection by the Democratic candidate, Joseph B. Ely. Governor Allen left office on January 8, 1931. Following his term as governor, he served as chairman of the board of Winslow and Smith Company until his death. He had homes in Boston, Norwood, and Marblehead. He died in Boston on October 9, 1950, at the age of 76.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Arrangement

The speeches were chronologically ordered, and the original order has been maintained. Someone on Fuller's administrative staff assigned a number to each speech and created an alphabetical index for each year. The speeches were sometimes listed in the index by the name of the organization sponsoring the event or by the title of an event, and the date of the speech was also indicated. In some cases, a speech is listed in the index twice (For instance, speech 14 on Jan. 31, 1925 was titled "Arrival of Paavo Nurmi - Finnish Athlete and Ugo Frigero Italian Athlete - State House." This speech was listed in the index under "P" for "Paavo Nurmi" and under "U" for "Ugo Frigero"). Occasionally, a speech is incorrectly numbered or missing a number or a speech number was inserted at a later time and numbered with a decimal point, as speech 48.5 or 48½ but the speeches remain chronologically ordered. At the time of processing, volume (binder) 3 of 1925 was missing, which included speeches 51-100, during the time period May 12 - July 28, 1925. In other instances, pages of a speech are missing or individual speeches are missing. When evident, missing speeches have been noted on folders.

This collection is arranged into two series:

Series I. Alvan T. Fuller Speeches, 1925-1928

Series II. Frank G. Allen Speeches, 1929-1931

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research during the Special Collections Department's regular hours.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Special Collections staff.

Languages and Scripts

The materials are entirely in English.

Conservation Note

Preservation activities were performed on the collection as follows:

- The speeches were originally housed in 21 small binders labeled with volume numbers. The binders were originally placed in the stacks and assigned a Dewey number. Special Collections staff withdrew the binders so that they could be processed as a manuscript collection. The speeches have been removed and placed in archival folders, but one binder has been retained as an example of the speeches' original housing.

Series Description and Container List

Series I: Alvan T. Fuller Speeches, 1925-1928

Scope and Content

This series includes the speeches of Governor Alvan T. Fuller.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	1	Index to 1925 speeches
1	2	Jan. 9-31, 1925 (speeches 1-13)
1	3	Feb. 3 - 28, 1925 (speeches 14-26)
1	4	March 7 - 31, 1925 (speeches 27-40)
1	5	April 6 - May 11, 1925 (speeches 41-60; speeches 61-100 are missing)
1	6	July 29 - Sept. 28, 1925 (speeches 101-111)

1	7	Oct. 2 - 30, 1926 (speeches 112-130)
1	8	Nov. 4 -10,1925; Dec. 9 - 31,1925 (speeches 131-135, 151-161; speeches 136-150 are missing, speech 151 is incomplete)
1	9	Index to 1926 speeches
1	10	Jan. 4 - Feb. 24, 1926 (speeches 1-14)
1	11	March 1 - April 30, 1926 (speeches 15-26)
1	12	May 4 - 30, 1926 (speeches 28-41)
1	13	June 1 - 24, 1926 (speeches 42-56)
1	14	July 1 - Aug. 28, 1926 (speeches 57-68)
1	15	Sept. 1 - 30, 1926 (speeches 69-76)
1	16	Oct. 5 - 23, 1926 (speeches 77-99)
1	17	Oct. 26 - 30, 1926 (speeches 100-110)
1	18	Nov. 1 - 4, 1926 (speeches 111-117)
1	19	Index to 1927 speeches
1	20	Jan. 4 - March 28, 1927 (speeches 1-17)
1	21	April 2 - 30, 1927 (speeches 18-36)
1	22	May 3 - Sept. 21, 1927 (speeches 37-52)
1	23	Oct. 7 - Dec. 15, 1927 (speeches 53-61)
1	24	Index to 1928 speeches
1	25	Jan. 17 - Feb. 27, 1928 (speeches 1-12)
1	26	March 5 - 24, 1928 (speeches 13-21)
1	27	April 11 - 30, 1928 (speeches 22-31)
1	28	May 1 - June 21, 1928 (speeches 32-48)
1	29	July 8 - Oct. 29, 1928 (speeches 49-66)
1	30	Nov. 1- 23, 1928 (speeches 67-77)
1	31	Dec. 3 - 27, 1928 (speeches 78-85)

Series II: Frank G. Allen Speeches, 1929-1931

Scope and Content

This series includes the speeches of Governor Frank G. Allen.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	32	Index to 1929 speeches
1	33	Jan. 4 - March 30, 1929 (speeches 1-22)
1	34	April 3 - 30, 1929 (speeches 23-38)
1	35	May 1 - June 29, 1929 (speeches 39-61)
1	36	July 3 - Oct. 28, 1929 (speeches 62-81)
1	37	Nov. 1 - Dec. 22, 1929 (speeches 82-96)
2	38	Index to 1930 speeches
2	39	Jan. 2 - March 24, 1930 (speeches 1-24)
2	40	April 1 - 30, 1930 (speeches 25-39)
2	41	May 1 - 30, 1930 (speeches 40-52)
2	42	June 1 - 28, 1930 (speeches 53-68)
2	43	July 7 - Aug. 17, 1930 (speeches 69-78)
2	44	Sept. 1 - 30, 1930 (speeches 79-92)
2	45	Oct. 3 - 10, 1930 (speeches 93-101)
2	46	Oct. 12 - 25, 1930 (speeches 102-115)
2	47	Oct. 27 - 31, 1930 (speeches 116-122; speech 123 is missing)
2	48	Nov. 1 - 3, 1930 (speeches 124-129)
2	49	Nov. 20 - Dec. 28, 1930 (speeches 130-136)
2	50	Jan. 2, 1931 (speech 137; speech 138 is missing)